(c) The names of the cities in Orissa where afforestation programme under National River Conservation Plan covered include Cuttack, Talcher, Chandbali and Dharmashala.

(d) A provision of Rs.8.99 crores has been earmarked for Afforestation Programme under National River Conservation Plan and Ganga Action Plan Phase-II. For the programme on Green Belt for Abatement of Pollution and Environmental Improvement in selected towns/cities in the country, funds are made available on project to project basis.

Pollution Problem in Metropolitan Cities

1712. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:
SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of effective steps taken so far by Government with regard to pollution problem in metropolitan/major cities of the country;

(b) what- is the result of such steps;

(c) whether environmental awareness programme is being implemented by Government in those cities;

(d) whether any Central assistance is being granted to States for this purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONEMNT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) The Government has taken various steps to control pollution in the metropolitan/major cities of the country which include the following:—

(i) Effluent and emission standards have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to check pollution.

(ii) Highly polluting industries have been directed to install necessary pollution control equipment in a time bound basis and legal action has been initiated against the defaulting units.

(iii) Under the World Bank Scheme, 89 Common Effluent Treatment Plants have been provided subsidy which are at various stages of implementation.

(iv) Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 1994 is in force governing environmental appraisal of 29 specified categories of developmental projects.

(v) For control of pollution from vehicles, emission norms for both petrol and diesel driven vehicles at the manufacturing stage were introduced for the first time in 1990 and made tighter in 1996. More stringent emission norms will come into effect from 1.4.2000.

(vi) Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) is supplied for automobiles through a number of retail outlets in Delhi and Mumbai to cater to the CNG fitted vehicles.

(vii) Action Plans for control of pollution in Delhi and Mumbai are being implemented.

(viii) 24 critically polluted areas have been identified. Action Plan have been drawn up for restoration of environmental quality in these areas.

(b) A decreasing trend in air pollution has been observed recently in Delhi and Mumbai due to various pollution control measures taken by the Government.

(c) The Government is promoting environmental awareness in the area of pollution control through various programmes which include the following:—

(i) A number of documentaries and films have been sponsored by the Ministry of Environment and Forests for educating the general public for taking measures to protect the environment and control pollution. These documentaries/films are shown on Doordarshan and other channels.

(ii) The Ministry of Environment & Forests and Central Pollution Control Board have launched their own web sites for the dissemination of information on environmental related issues.

(iii) A Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Cell has been set up in the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to undertake various pollution control activities in cooperation with NGOs. These include interaction meetings with NGOs from States, conducting mass awareness programmes, waste collection and segregation, preparation of inventory of industries including

information on pollution control status and prosecution launched against defaulting units etc.

(d) and (e) Central assistance is provided to various State Governments under Paryavaran Vahini Scheme to create environmental awareness and involvement of people through active participation. The scheme is likely to be transferred to the implementing States soon.

Poaching in the Jungles of North Andhra and Konaseema

1713. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONEMNT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether poaching of wild animals and endangered birds continues unabated in the jungles of North Andhra and Konaseema with the forest officials turning a blind eye; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed for proper monitoring and to stop poaching activities, with the help of local volunteers and SPCA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No, Sir. As reported by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, there are no such cases of poaching of wild animals and birds in northern Andhra Pradesh and Konaseema.

(b) Does not arise.

Compensation for injuries caused by Animals

1714. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONEMNT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enhance the amount of compensation/ assistance on death and injuries caused on human Being due to attack by animals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of amount allocated to States and Union-Territories for the purpose during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONEMNT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The Government has enhanced the amount of compensation for death of human beings due to